DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND XX—PUBLIC WORKS—(*contd.*)

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We will now resume the discussion on the demand moved by Mr. Natesa Aiyar.

MR. PAUL DANIEL (*Nominated*): It is highly praiseworthy that the caste Hindus are espousing the cause of the depressed classes and are fighting on their behalf for the elementary rights of citizenship. But I think that to establish a connection between the *satyagraha* movement at Suchindram and the sanctioning by the Government of the road to the people of Karkad and basing on it a reason for opposing the demand should be deprecated.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Louder, please.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Daniel, please attempt to talk a little louder.

MR. PAUL DANIEL (*Nominated*): One of the reasons for opposing the demand for the opening of a road from Karkad to the Cape road is that this has arisen out of the movement at Suchindram. Whether the Government sanctioned the road at this time in order to weaken the force of the *satyagraha* movement or whether the road was sanctioned out of pity for the miserable condition of the poor people in that village does not in my opinion arise in connection with the discussion and consideration of the opening of the road. Those poor people at Karkad will no doubt be thanking the Government for sanctioning that road for which they have been praying and waiting for well-nigh half a century. Those gentlemen who have espoused that cause will, I believe, be thankful for this small mercy though the greater and wider advantages that they have been fighting for have not been immediately obtained.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the Member whether he knows that there is a road that connects the Nagercoil-Cape road and Karkad Village?

MR. PAUL DANIEL (*Nominated*): I am aware of it. I said that that was one of the reasons.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Member would still like to have another road if this road is opened?

MR. PAUL DANIEL (*Nominated*): Yes. I am bringing to the notice of the House a similar situation in a village not far from Suchindram—the remedy applied and the satisfaction which it has given all round—I refer to the situation that was existing in Veravila at the eastern end of which live Christians and at the western end caste Hindus. For a long time there was not much friction between these two communities. The Vellalas would allow the Christians living at the eastern end of the village to pass along that road which runs between two rows of their streets but would not allow them to go in procession or drive in a carriage or go with open umbrellas. The situation became grave. There was a breach of the peace. There was a likelihood of greater troubles. This took place during the administration—

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MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Will the Member say when this happened?

MR. PAUL DANIEL (*Nominated*): This took place during the administration of Mr. (now Sir) P. Rajagopalachari and he in his usual manner ordered the immediate opening of a new road just by the side of the existing road and parallel to it, the distance between these two roads being not more than a furlong at any point. The road was opened. The tension was removed. The people of Veravila are using that road without fear and trembling and the old relationship has greatly improved. These two communities are now living in a neighbourly fashion and I believe the friendship between them is very satisfactory. I therefore think that the present move made by the Government under similar circumstances would produce similar results and a road opened from Karkad to the Cape road would not only ease the situation, but also afford very great relief to the people of Karkad.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether the Member had the opportunity of ascertaining the sense of the people of Karkad?

MR. PAUL DANIEL (*Nominated*): I have no personal information, but I have known many of the inhabitants of Karkad.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the Member is in a position to tell us as to the real demand for this road among the people of Karkad?

MR. PAUL DANIEL (*Nominated*): Yes. They have been petitioning for this road for a very long time.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): In view of the fact that a separate road was granted to the people of Varavila during the time of Sir P. Rajagopalachari, may I know if the Member is aware that there is a similar disability among the Nadars of Mailadi and they too complained to the Government that they should be permitted to pass along the road in procession with tom-toms, etc.?

MR. PAUL DANIEL (*Nominated*): Yes, there is a similar difficulty there and the people are making a move for the removal of that difficulty. I am sure that, if a similar solution could be made for the relief of the people of Mailadi, they would be satisfied. It is not that they should go along a particular road but they should not have any obstruction to passing out of their villages.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know whether the Nadars had put in a petition to the Government to the effect that their disabilities should be removed?

MR. PAUL DANIEL (*Nominated*): Yes. But the people are still persisting in petitioning the Government in the matter of elementary rights

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know whether the Government were not very anxious to give them permission to pass along the road with tom-toms?

MR. PAUL DANIEL (*Nominated*): I am not aware.

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MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is the Member aware that at least a section of the Karkad people petitioned the Government that they did not want this particular road as contemplated by this demand?

MR. PAUL DANIEL (*Nominated*): I am not aware. I can say positively that many of the inhabitants of Karkad are very thankful that this request which has come from them many many years ago has been sanctioned.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): After listening to the very interesting remarks made by my friend Mr. Paul Daniel, I have some doubts as to whether the necessity for the road has been made out by him. The representatives of the taluk, Mr. Sivatanu Pillai and Mr. Subrahmanya Pillai, have been telling us yesterday that a large section of the public there do not want the road. The House has to view the necessity for this road not from the point of view of the parochial villagers but from that of the whole of Travancore. The necessity has been pointed out by Mr. Paul Daniel not only at Karkad but in other villages also. The same sort of necessity arises far away in the north, east and west, for example, in Shertallai, Muvattupuzha and Ambalapuzha and other places where it is very urgent.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): If this is the case, may I point out to the Member that a road is necessary at Tovala?

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Yes, we have to look at it not from the point of view of the parochial villagers but from the view of the whole of Travancore. So far as I know, it has been conceded by Mr. Paul Daniel that at least a portion of the villagers at Karkad are against the opening of the new road. So I do not think the House has been satisfied as to the necessity for cutting this particular road. We understand also from the representative of the taluk that there is already a public road maintained out of public funds connecting these two villages which *is* further a shorter road. The Chief Engineer who was questioned yesterday was not able to satisfy us as to the necessity for the road in question. He was also not in a position to tell us whether the road was maintained out of public funds. Sir, as has been pointed out, the real question at issue on this point is not the necessity for this road, but the right of certain classes of people to use this road. In these days of civic progress, I believe that this House thinks that no class of population should be shut out from using any part of the King's highway in deference to the sentiments of one section of the public. So, I for one, do not find my way to support the demand in question.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I am very sorry that I have also to oppose this motion, particularly because when the Government bring forward a demand for grant for conducting a public work of utility it is not proper on the part of any representative of the people to stand up and say that such a work should not be undertaken by the Government. Probably, it is in view of that circumstance that Mr. Paul Daniel has been influenced in supporting this motion. Of course, when the agenda paper was placed in our hands it, was not possible for us to discern the reason or the necessity which the Government [illegible]

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opening this road by asking for a supplementary grant. Often it is our experience both in the Assembly and in this House to request Government to open roads and other means of communication, construct bridges and other works of public utility, and we have always found it difficult to convince Government about the urgent necessity of these works. In this case, that the road has been found to be absolutely unnecessary after due deliberation for the purposes of these villagers is admitted by the Government. But by means of a supplementary grant, to come to the Council and ask for its sanction is indeed very objectionable. Of course, as the President said yesterday, the Government may become wiser, conditions might change after three years and so on; that Government may alter its views is quite a different matter. This is one aspect of the question. Then, it has been pointed out in the course of debate by Mr. Sivatanu Pillai that a section of the villagers at any rate is not in favour of opening this road, the implication being that this road is thrust upon them by the Government. It may or many not be so. But the attitude which the Government have taken with respect to the Suchindram question is not very clear. It becomes a matter of doubt whether Government have got any intention with respect of this question as Government have not declared as yet practically any opinion on the matter. Government are sitting on the hedge as it were. I do believe that the Government will come to the conclusion that they will have to descend on the side of the *satyagraha* which I think is the side of reason and justice. At any rate, Government have not yet declared their opinion with respect to the *satyagraha* at Suchindram. The circumstances that are pointed out by the previous speakers point to the conclusion that this is probably the attempt on the part of somebody to create a situation which would remove the edge of the grievances of the *satyagrahis* against the *anti-satyagrahis*. Of course, it is not really a question between *satyagrahis* and *anti-satyagrahis*. We should not view the question from that standpoint.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): May I know whether he raised the same objection with regard to the construction of a new road at Vaikam?

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): That is altogether a different question. In that case, the Government did not go to the Council for a grant for the road. The road was opened from Devaswom funds.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): No, not from Devaswom funds.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): What I therefore think is that this is somehow or other a short cut devised by somebody for the purposes of settling a dispute that has arisen between the villagers. For all these reasons, I would oppose the motion not only because a suspicion has been created in our minds, but also because the Chief Engineer has not been in a position to throw light on this demand. He has not told us the previous history of this road. I doubt whether the Government are aware of the previous order that this road is absolutely unnecessary. Under these circumstances, at any rate, I do not think this House will be acting wisely in sanctioning this demand.

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MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): The speeches delivered yesterday and to-day have revealed that, behind this innocent-looking demand, there is a lot of feeling and inner history and obviously this is an attempt to evade the need for solving the Suchindram *satyagraha* question immediately on the merits of it. This is a motion for opening a new road at Suchindram. It would appear from the speeches delivered here that this was created by the desire of the authorities to avoid the necessity of giving a definite decision about the *satyagraha* question at Suchindram. That being the case, I am inclined to think that it would be desirable for Government to give a decision on the merits of the question itself. If, after taking into account all sides of the question, Government come to a deliberate conclusion that the road in question cannot be opened for all classes of people, then it would be fit for Government to ask for a grant. But facing the question boldly and squarely, it is not desirable that this demand should be made to solve a question indirectly. Therefore, after listening to the speeches of the South Travancore Members who are really sympathetic to the claims of the depressed classes, I was inclined to oppose the motion. But to-day, after having listened to the speech of my esteemed friend Mr. Daniel—I have always learnt to regard with great respect his sentiments which are the direct outcome of well-balanced views—I am inclined to support the motion. Besides, he has put his views in a dispassionate manner and in view of the real difficulties of the poor depressed classes Mr. Daniel has made a very earnest appeal to the House to sanction this grant. But in spite of Mr. Daniel's very eloquent appeal to the House, I have still to insist that, before this demand is pressed upon the House, Government should come to a decision on the merits of the question. Therefore, I oppose the motion.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): The speeches delivered by the South Travancore Members, I am sure, convinced us that the people concerned are not at all anxious to have this road opened. There was a time when they wanted the road, and, when they were in such a real need, that road was not sanctioned by the Government. Now, as is evident to all, in the present circumstances, the Government have tried to evade facing the question of opening this road, which to all appearance must be maintained by the Chief Engineer. This road is evidently maintained by the P. W. D. authorities although it is regrettable to find that the Chief Engineer was not able to answer our questions. We have reason to believe that this part of the road is also maintained by the Public Works Department. Whatever might be the difficulties experienced by the Government with regard to the roads that are really alleged to be temple roads, I for one cannot see why the Government should hesitate in this matter to say that this is a temple road and maintained by public funds. Now, if the Government are going to slight the sentiments of the caste Hindus by spending public money for that purpose, I fear the Government will be adopting a policy which can never be justified. Mr. Paul Daniel mentioned an instance of how a road was opened under similar circumstances whereby the sufferers were given substantial relief. We could appreciate the steps taken by

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the Government at that time. But we must remember that it was nearly two decades ago. These two decades have seen a change in the social and political atmosphere of the country. Now all of us know how strong the feeling is in this country in the matter of civic rights. With regard to the principle of spending public funds in this country only for purposes which are beneficial to the public as a whole and not for the conveniences of any particular community, whatever might have been the justification of the Administration 20 years ago, I must say that it will be most unjust if the Government allot a sum of Rs. 4,000 for this road under the circumstances explained. Therefore, I would request that the Government be pleased to face this question whether they are going to allow public funds to be spent on roads which are exclusively used by certain sections of the population.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether the road that has been demanded by the caste Hindus is intended for the use of the non-caste Hindus?

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): It is intended for the use of the non-caste Hindus. It was once demanded by the people, but then the Government did not see their way to grant their request.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): A word of personal explanation. The people of Karkad petitioned the Government for the construction of a road. At that time the Government refused to sanction.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): If the Government would face this question and come to a deliberate conclusion, then it is necessary in the interests of the State to leave certain roads to the exclusive use of certain communities and make proposals of that kind. We shall then be in a better position to consider the question on its merits. Before facing and considering it, it is not desirable that the question should be evaded in a way it is proposed to be done.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): I am sorry I too have to oppose this motion. When Mr. Sivatanu Pillai explained to us yesterday about this demand, I understood that there was a hidden meaning beneath it. When the villagers of Karkad once prayed for this road, it was evident from the copy of the letter read to us by Mr. Sivatanu Pillai that the Government refused to grant it. Now the Government are pressing the road upon a set of unwilling people. Herein arises a suspicion. There is already a road from Karkad leading to the Cape road and that road is open only to certain sections of the community and it is maintained by the Public Works Department. In a country which is so cultured as ours there cannot be any room for such a nice distinction between community and community, section and section. We should try to stand above such narrow and petty prejudices. Of course, I admit that there will always be a conservative class of people everywhere and in all ages. If the Government are going to satisfy all classes of people, I am afraid they will satisfy none at all. There is a question of right involved in this, and instead of solving that question straightaway, the Government are evading it by trying to construct a new road and thereby perpetuating these nice distinctions. And, again, as a matter of fact, we are

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[Mr. K. Sivarama Panikkar.]

aware that the Government have not always been anxious to provide similar conveniences to people situated in similar circumstances as the villagers of Karkad. For instance, in Mailadi, the Nadars of that street have been complaining to the Government that the road should be thrown open to them and the Government have refused to throw open that road for purposes of procession, etc., although that road is even now opened for other purposes. In S. T. L. R. case, Government held that they had a right to declare a public road as the King's highway and I appeal to the present Government to see their way to open not only this road but all such roads as King's highways, and make the country stand above such narrow prejudices.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is not this road a King's highway?

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): The road in question is a public way so far as I have understood. There is some distinction between the King's highway and a public road. But for this, there would have been no necessity for the *satyagraha* movement at Suchindram. I cannot find my way to vote for this demand unless Government see their way to solve this question and to remedy the grievances of a large section of the people of this country.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Sir, I too rise to oppose this portion of the demand. Repeated allegations have been made by several Members that this is a move on the part of the Government to stifle the *satyagraha* struggle. When questions were asked to the Chief Engineer whether this move was really intended to serve that purpose, his reply was that he was not in a position to say yes or no and that it was a question that is to be answered by the Government. Although these allegations were repeated several times, none of the Members on the Government Benches was able to affirm or deny the truth of the allegation or to put forward their case with regard to the road in question.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What does the Member say with regard to Mr. Paul Daniel's observation?

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Mr. Daniel stated that there were requisitions from the inhabitants of Karkad ranging for a period of fifty years. So far as I understand, it seems to me that the villagers of Karkad requested the Government for opening this road on the ground that they could not pass through Suchindram. That aspect of the question confirms the view that this road is being opened with a view to shelve the Suchindram question.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Even if this road is constructed by the Government, what prevents the *satyagrahis* from carrying on such a campaign?

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): The answer has been given by some of the Members who are nearer Suchindram than myself. The Chief Engineer, when questioned whether he had ever visited the road, was not in a position to answer. He was not able to defend his position in the

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matter of opening the road on its intrinsic merits. Nor were the other Members of Government able to convince this House as to the necessity for the road. Two Members that represent the southern taluks of the State have informed this House that this road is not needed. I would ask the Government: what is the use of constructing a road for the people who do not want it? There are other parts in Travancore where the cry has ever been that their requirements in the matter of communications have not been met. When, therefore, there are several large extensive tracts still unexplored and even partially explored where communications have to be developed and when the Government have always been complaining that there are no funds, I cannot support the policy of thrusting this road upon a section of the people who do not want it. (Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai: *Hear, hear.*) Therefore, without considering the question whether it is as a matter of fact a diplomatic move on the part of Government to avoid the *satyagraha* question at Suchindram—so far Government have not made a statement on the question—I would oppose the demand on the ground that the road is not necessary. It has not been proved to the satisfaction of the House that this road is required by the people of the locality; and when there are several other places that stand in urgent need of communications, I cannot understand why the Government should be so very particular in opening this road. I therefore oppose this demand.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, just as we have the expression 'the real object of a suit' in courts, so in connection with this particular demand, what is the real object is the question now before the House. One thing is clear from the majority of the speeches delivered on this subject, *viz.*, that the road is demanded by caste Hindus not for them to go along but to make non-caste Hindus and the non-Hindus to walk along. Persons who think they are entitled to speak on the part of non-caste Hindus and non-Hindus contend that they will not walk over this road. So, the two sets put together come to this, that no human being will be walking over this road. (*Laughter*). When such is the fate of this road, why the Government should be so anxious in opening it is an aspect of the question which is not quite clear to me. On the other hand, as has been pointed out with considerable force by Mr. Matthew, there is a demand for roads from various other parts of this State. The Public Works Department headed by Mr. Natesa Aiyar fights as far as possible againt such demands. Here Mr. Natesa Aiyar himself is practically not certain of the need for this road. Government seem to have asked Mr. Natesa Aiyar to make an estimate and submit it, and told him that this road should be made. It has therefore no backing of expert opinion behind it. Is it the case that the existing road is not broad enough for people to walk along, or, is it the case that the particular road proposed to be made would be so strong and enduring as to go without maintenance allotment for its being kept up? The peculiar advantage with respect to the proposed road is not made out.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The necessity for a road is not always a matter of expert opinion.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Viewed in the light of this aspect of the question, it comes to this. Those who demand the road do not want to walk along it and those for whom the road is intended refuse to walk along the road. There is an existing road which is required by two opposing factions, and to solve that problem, Government propose a new road which would not be used by either of them, I mean the *satyagrahis* or the *anti-satyagrahis*, for the world has got itself divided into *satyagrahis* and *anti-satyagrahis*. Such being the case, I do not see the *raison d'etre* of opening the road at all, and, therefore, I am sorry to oppose the demand.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I also oppose the demand. As to the question of the new road, of course, the House is more or less convinced that there is no necessity at all. Then, the only thing that I want to draw attention to is that only under exceptional circumstances Government should be allowed to come to this Council with demands for supplementary grants. The policy of Government in rushing to the Council with the demand for a supplementary grant both in time and out of time and both for necessary and unnecessary things should not be encouraged by this House. Therefore, at least to show the discontent of this House towards the Government for coming to this House with such innumerable items of supplementary demands, session after session of this House, we have to throw out this demand. That is the only point which I want to bring to the attention of this House. Hereafter, unless the Government feel that there is an emergency for the supplementary demand, they should not come to this House for granting it. In this particular case, the Government are not justified in coming to this House for a supplementary grant, and we are not told how this matter is emergent. The Government had not made out a case for the demand and the Members of this House are not convinced as to the emergent nature of this new road. On this ground also, therefore, we have to throw out this item from the demand in question. With these words, I oppose the demand.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, apart from the question as to whether the Government want to open this new road to meet the needs of the people or whether it is a question of deciding *satyagraha* or *anti-satyagraha*, the real question that has to be considered is whether there is any necessity for the road at all. Messrs. Sivatanu Pillai and Subrahmanya Pillai of Tovala and Agastiswaram say that there is no necessity for this road. But Mr. Daniel and the Chief Engineer seem to think that there is a necessity for this road. Anyhow, no case has been made out to show that this road is now absolutely necessary. When we have not enough funds and when our friends of north and central Travancore and other parts are crying out that they have no means of communication, it would be inadvisable now to spend this amount on this road the utility of which has been called into question. I therefore oppose the demand, as a supplementary one.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I also oppose the demand. I think it is practically conceded that, if the present access to the main road is made available to the class of people for whom the present road is intended to be constructed, there will be absolutely no

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need for the construction of the new road. I have no personal knowledge of this locality, but, from the information I have gathered from my south Travancore friends, I understand that the existing road connecting the Main Southern Road is shorter in distance than the one now proposed to be constructed. It therefore can serve no convenience whatsoever to the persons for whom the road is intended. All that has been said and that has been said by Mr. Daniel is that the people of Karkad have been asking for this road for so long a time, and, in response to their petitions, the Government have now sanctioned the construction of this road. Now it appears to me there has been a good deal of misapprehension with respect to the applications of the people of Karkad. What is it that they have applied for or petitioned the Government for. Is it for this particular road or access to the Main Southern Road? It appears to me it is not they that have asked for the construction of this particular round about road. They want a decent access to the main road and if you make the existing access available to them I do not think they will insist upon this particular road being constructed for their use. So that, the real point of the people is to give them convenience of traffic and to permit them to pass through the village to the main road, to carry their procession or to carry articles from the village to the main road and from the main road to their village. If that can be done without incurring additional expenditure and without constructing the new road, we can say there is no necessity for this road. Therefore, the only question is whether Government are now prepared to remove the obstacle that now exists against the use of the existing road by the villagers of Karkad. Now, we must take it that it is the unwillingness on the part of the Government to allow them this elementary right that induced the Government to incur the additional unnecessary expenditure in constructing the new road. It appears to me that this is against all principles of justice and fairness. If every community wants to keep out other communities from the roads which they use—public roads or public canals—and wants roads to be constructed for other communities, then, there would be no end of the necessity for new roads to be constructed all over the State. Public money is not meant for being wasted on such objects. For the purpose of merely respecting the unreasonable sentiments of some people, public money should not be squandered. I am really surprised that the Chief Engineer who is, so far as I have known him, very parsimonious in the expenditure of public money should come forward with a demand for an expenditure of Rs. 5,000 and odd upon this road when, according to his own conviction—apart from the sentiments of the caste-Hindus of this or that locality—there is absolutely no need for the construction of this road. I therefore very strongly oppose this demand.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, with reference to this particular item of the demand, that is, the Karkad road, I should like to draw the attention of this House and of the Government to a certain question of principle. It seems pretty clear that the road is proposed to be made on the request of a small section of the caste Hindus. I cannot say that all caste Hindus want it, because my friends Messrs. Sivatanu Pillai and Subrahmanya Pillai who are also caste-Hindus do not want it. A section of the people of the place might have

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[Mr. G. Raman Menon.]

asked the Government for such a road. In such cases the Government ought to have asked them to bear the cost of it. If any body wants a public road or any other institution or work which is maintained from public funds for any legitimate reason to be exclusively kept for their own use, they must pay for it. I think the Government should legitimately ask them to pay for it. That is, for reserving any particular road now maintained from the public funds for the use of any particular communities, the Government should ask them whether they are prepared to bear the cost. If not, no road should be particularly reserved for any particular community. So, I think it is not right on the part of the Government now to come forward with this item, unless the other question has been settled. And that has not been done. So, the best thing for the Government will be to shelve the question for the present and withdraw the demand. If it is pressed, I beg to oppose it.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I had no idea of intervening in this debate, but the point was raised as to what was the object of the Government in having this road constructed. I see from the papers before me that there have been petitions for the construction of this road for ever so many years. The need for the road therefore is a thing which need not be questioned.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): എത്ര കൊല്ലം മുമ്പാണ് അപേക്ഷകം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതു്?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): About forty years or so.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): അതാവശ്യമാണെന്നു ബോദ്ധ്യം വന്നതെപ്പോൾ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have been mindful of the necessity of a road; but some years ago when they considered the question they thought that an existing road would meet the requirements of the people.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the Government referred the matter to the Chief Engineer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): On this occasion?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Yes.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I don't find any document to show that it was referred to the Chief Engineer because it had been previously examined.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ റോഡ് ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നു ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ എഴുതി അയച്ചതു് ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ അറിവോടുകൂടിതന്നെയാണോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): No. The Chief Engineer relied on the strength of a Government decision given some years ago and therefore he gave that endorsement.

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MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : ഗവർണ്മെ ൻറിനോട് ര ം വർഷമായിട്ട് റോഡുവേണമെന്ന് അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരി ക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് അതുവരെ കൊടുക്കാനിടയില്ലെന്ന ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ മറുപടി കാടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള വിവരം അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണോ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു പറയുന്നതു?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Now the Government came to know of it.

MR. K. J. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether the villagers will be satisfied if the existing road is opened to them ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That I can't say, because the villagers have been repeatedly asking for this road. It is seen that even as late as 1923 there have been interpellations in this House from Mr. P. V. Daniel.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*) ; Is it not because the other road was closed to them ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That may be.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Why did not Government give them the other road ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : It is a matter which will take time to consider. Meanwhile the Government thought that it was desirable to redress a longstanding grievance.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : May I know whether the Government asked the Chief Engineer to prepare an estimate for this road ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): When ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Recently.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will he please give the date ? Is it after the *satyagraha* at Suchindram began ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : The fact that people are suffering a great hardship came prominently to the notice of the Government recently. There was, no doubt, a time when the matter was at rest. Then the fact that the road was urgently needed was brought to the notice of the Government.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : May I know whether the Government asked the Chief Engineer to prepare the estimate before or after the *satyagraha* at Suchindram commenced ? I want to know the date.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The Chief Engineer's report to Government is dated the 25th February 1926.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether the Government have promised to open this road before the coming Karkatakam Budget Session ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): No. What I mean is this. The people have been suffering from a great hardship. They want the road. There have been petitions from the Salvation Army authorities and from various other persons for many years, and now the Government feel that the longstanding grievance should be redressed. The fact that roads are necessary in other places does not mean that this road should not be constructed. Because, in that case, there would be no occasion for opening any roads. We cannot take all the roads together. We must take them one by one. Here is a case in which the need is urgent.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Is not South Travancore better supplied with roads than Central and North Travancore ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : I cannot say. That depends upon the particular localities.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Was it not on account of this road not being opened to them or because this particular road was not there ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : I have already answered that.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) ; From the answer, I gather that the Government have not made up their mind to opening that particular road. But I want to ask the Chief Secretary whether this slow process of coming to a decision by the Government does not involve a good deal of strain upon the tax payer.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : I am not quite sure, that the Member is right when he says that the people of the locality will be quite satisfied with the existing road.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : Is there any record on which he bases that answer ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I have no material now before me.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether the people of Karkad wanted an approach road or the road intended by this demand.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : It is not the people that decide the alignment of the road, but it is the Public Works Department and I find that when Mr. Natesa Aiyar was the Executive Engineer of that locality, he recommended practically this road.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the Salvation Army alone was responsible in bringing to notice the immediate necessity for throwing open this road ?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : I cannot give a definite answer to that. There have been petitions for a long time past on this subject. Now, the matter was brought to prominent notice.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Was there any special reason for drawing the attention of the Government to the immediate necessity of opening the road ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : The reason is that they want the road urgently.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : What was the urgency in the matter ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Because Government, when they looked back to the whole history of it, thought that the matter had been unduly delayed.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Will he please refer to the endorsement dated the 6th June 1923 ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I have already said that this endorsement was given on the basis of a previous order of the Government some years back. It was not at the instance of the Government.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Is not that road which was referred to in that endorsement still existing ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government now find that it is a very round-about road and that a better road could be given.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Did not the Government then find that it was a round-about road ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): They then thought it would do. But the Government now think that the best course is to give them a properly aligned road.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the present attempt on the part of the Government to open this road has anything to do with the *saiyagraha* at all ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : I cannot say. I do not find anything in the papers before me to show that it has anything to do with *satyagraha*.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*) : May I know whether there was any representation from the people regarding this road after the commencement of the *satyagraha* movement ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : There has been no recorded petition from either the people who want the road or who do not want it.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*) : Does the Government think that if the present road is opened there will not be any particular necessity for this new road ?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I am no sure of that and I leave it to be answered by the Chief Engineer. Go vernment thought that there was urgent necessity for that road. I has been a longstanding grievance, and by opening it, they though they could, satisfy their demand and set at rest the grievances of th people of the village who have been suffering for ever so many years.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I knov whether the people of the village insist upon the opening of the othe public road?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*). Certai people are insisting. But the people of the village desire to have acces to the Main Southern Road. I cannot say that they are very particula to go by a particular road.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Considering the fac that there has been no representation after the *satyagraha* movement..

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I said tha there is no recorded petition. But there may have been persona representations.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Was there any such repre sentation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I canno say whether there has been any personal representation to Governmen so far as I can see from the records.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Di it take such a long time—the file on the subject is 40 years old—befor the Government passed final orders?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a matte of procedure in the Secretariat, and I do not think that question nee be answered.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): I the urgency is so great, why not the funds be diverted from other item from the P. W. D. work?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Governmen thought that the proper course would be to come to the House for a grant, because it was not provided for in the original budget. Of course we could have obtained the funds by diversion. But Government thought that this was the right way to proceed.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): So this is only less urgent than other items for which grant has been given?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Government have waited for 40 years. Why not they wait for three months more?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Why should they? If they think that a road should be given, they will give it. There is nothing gained by waiting. I want to mention this fact that it is not particularly with a view to avoid the solution of the *satyagraha* movement that the road has been proposed to be made.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether there is any criterion by which Government understand the urgency of the necessity or otherwise?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): There are ever so many criteria. One may be a long and persistent demand for the road.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Chief Secretary assure the House that this demand has nothing to do either directly or indirectly with the *satyagraha* movement?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I have already answered that the Government have decided to open this road because of the urgency of the need for the road.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Will he assure the House that this has nothing to do with the *Satyagraha* movement?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I have already said that I find from papers that it has nothing to do with the *satyagraha* movement.

MR. W. H. PITT (*Commissioner of Police*): Is there any *satyagraha* movement at Suchindram now?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no *satyagraha* movement at present.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jenmies:*): ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഉള്ള റോഡ് അടച്ചുകെട്ടണമെന്ന് ഗവർൺമെൻറ് വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): അങ്ങനെ ഉദ്ദേശമുള്ളതായി അറിവില്ലാ.

MR C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jenmies*): ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കൂടുതൽ റോഡ് വെട്ടുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ സൌകര്യമുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): ഉണ്ട്.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jenmies*): ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ റോഡുകൾ വളരെ കുറവാണെന്ന് അറിയാമൊ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): ചിലഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ കുറവാണെന്നറിയാം.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jenmies*): ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു റോഡ് വെട്ടേണ്ടതു വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നാണൊ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): അതെ.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jenmies*): ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാൻ വയ്യാത്തതായ റോഡാണൊ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): അങ്ങനെതന്നെയാണ്.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether he is aware that the *satyagraha* movement has been suspended for the time being?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I suppose so. The Member must know better. The Government have realised the need and the urgency for this road and have therefore brought this proposition before this House.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): May I know from the Chief Secretary the approximate population of Karkad?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I have no information on the point. It is a big village.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jenmies*): എത്ര മൈൽ നീളത്തിലാണ് ഈ റോഡ് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നു പറയുമോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയരോടു ചോദിച്ചാൽ മറുപടി പറയും.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): After listening to the debates and to the answers to the several questions addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government, I should think it desirable on the part of the Government to withhold this demand; for this question deserves fuller consideration at the hands of the Government. If they press the demand now, it would appear that, in spite of the apprehension, real or otherwise, justified or otherwise, on the part of a very large section of the non-official Members of this House to the effect that there is something behind this demand, the question has not been considered by the Government fully.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether this item was considered by the Finance Committee?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Yes, it was. I might also add that in the Finance Committee no question was raised about this demand having anything to do with the *satyagraha* movement at Suchindram. The only point urged before the Finance Committee was that this was a very urgent matter and the road was being demanded for the last 40 years by the Karkad villagers and that therefore it was a matter which should be provided for, immediately. There was absolutely no suspicion whatever as to the intention of the Government regarding the *satyagraha* movement at Suchindram. In fact, even now, there is not sufficient material for us to come to a proper decision on this matter; because, according to the ChiefS ecretary, the matter of opening the road at Suchindram is still under the consideration of Government. If that be so, and if, as my friends Messrs. Subrahmanya Pillai and Sivatanu Pillai put it, the existing road would adequately meet the purposes of the proposed road, it will then be a matter for serious consideration whether we should open a new road at all. We have also to see whether what Mr. Daniel stated, *viz.*, that this road was absolutely essential in the interests of the villagers, was true.

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That matter also deserves greater consideration. If, independent of the Suchindram road, this road is an urgent necessity, then we may have to grant this demand. That question has to be looked into. So, it may not be quite proper for us to come to a conclusion just now and say definitely that the new road may be opened or that the present road may be utilised for the purpose. So far as the use of the existing road is concerned, the question is still under the consideration of the Government and I think we can afford to wait until Government finally decide it. If the Government decide the question in favour of opening the existing road to all communities and if it is found then that the new road is not necessary, we may not be justified in incurring this expenditure at all. We have also to see, in view of the larger demand for roads elsewhere, whether, in the order of urgency, this Karkad road is absolutely essential.

On a consideration of all these aspects of the question, Sir, I consider it desirable on the part of the Government to withdraw this supplementary demand.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jenmies*): ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യംനാട്ടിൽ എത്രമാത്രം വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നുവോ അത്രയ്ക്കുംനല്ലതുതന്നെയാണ്. എന്നാൽ മി: നടേശയ്യർ ഇപ്പോൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായ റോഡിന്റെ സംഗതിയിൽ സത്യാഗ്രഹസംബന്ധമായ വാദംകൂടി ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതായി ഇവിടെ നടന്ന വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും മനസ്സിലാകുന്നു. ലോകത്തിൽ അസമത്വം നിലനിൽക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ആഗ്രഹം എനിക്കശേഷമില്ല. നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം എല്ലാവരും പരസ്പരം സമത്വത്തിൽതന്നെ പെരുമാറണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ ആഗ്രഹം.

തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഗതാഗതസൌകര്യങ്ങൾ ധാരാളമായി ലഭിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ വടക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള ഞങ്ങൾ റോഡില്ലാതെ വളരെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇനിയും ഒരു റോഡുകൂടി കിട്ടിയിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അത്രയും അനുഗ്രഹമായിരുന്നേനെ എന്നാണു ഞങ്ങൾ വിചാരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. എങ്കിലും ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ റോഡു ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ തന്നെയും ഇനിയും അവക്ക് ഒരു റോഡുകൂടി കൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് അസന്തോഷം അശേഷമില്ലാ. സത്യാഗ്രഹസംബന്ധമായ വാദങ്ങൾ ഈ റോഡിന്റെ സംഗതിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുമെന്ന് തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അങ്ങനെ വന്നാൽ തന്നെയും ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ളറോഡിനെഅടയ്ക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നാണു ഗവർമെന്റു ഭാഗത്തിൽനിന്നും മനസ്സിലാകുന്നത്. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു അവിടെ ഒരു റോഡുകൂടി ഉണ്ടാ

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[Mr. C. N. Tuppan Nambutiri.]

കുന്നതിൽ യാതൊരു തരക്കേടുമില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള റോഡിൽ ഏതാനും ജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രവേശനത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു നിരോധിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു നന്നാണ് എന്നഭിപ്രായമില്ല.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും നിരോധന ഉത്തരവു അവിടെ വച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയാമോ ?

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jenmies*): അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ ; അങ്ങനെ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ആ ഉത്തരവുകളെ മാറുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിക്കയാണ് വേണ്ടതു്.

അല്ലാതെ പുതനമായി നിർമ്മിക്കാൻ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ദയവായി ആലോചിക്കുന്നതായി വേണ്ടെന്നുശഠിക്കരുതു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ റോഡിൽക്കൂടി സഞ്ചാരസ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം കിട്ടി കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടു പിന്നീടു വേറെ ഒരു റോഡുകൂടി വേണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതു സാധിച്ചുകിട്ടുന്ന വരികയില്ല. അതുപ്പാടെ ആലോചിച്ചതിൽ പ്രസ്തുത റോഡുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതു അനാവശ്യമാണെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. ആ ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഡിമാൻറിനെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I find that most of the Members, who have spoken on the subject, have, for some reason or other which I need not discuss here, opposed the motion for the grant for opening the road to the Karkad village. My work in replying to these Members has been greatly simplified by the fact that Mr. Paul Daniel, who may be taken to be the real representative of the Karkad villagers—

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): What about the other representatives here ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): According to me he is *the real* representative of the Karkad villagers and he welcomed the opening of the proposed road and said that the road was really necessary and that the opening of the road would afford great relief to the villagers.

In regard to the necessity and urgency for constructing the approach road to Karkad about which there seems to be a misapprehension, I shall trace the history of the same firstly. So far back as December 1908, the Chief Officer of the Salvation Army petitioned that the present pathway leading to the village was inconvenient and dangerous and that a cart road might be constructed without delay. Government wanted to know the cost and I reported early in 1909 as the Division Officer at the time, that the path referred to was along the flood banks and field ridges and circuitous and not fit for cart traffic and that a cart road might be constructed utilising the said path wherever possible and deviating in places and connecting [illegible]

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to the Cape road above the bridge. And I may say here that this very alignment has been more or less adopted for the road proposed and now under discussion.

After some correspondence and on the recommendation of the Revenue Department, Government, in their G. O. No. 1039 A/P. W., dated 6-3-1911, ordered that, as there was a cart road connecting the village to the Cape road *via* Kakamputur and Suchindram tank bund, no new cart road to connect the village to near the bridge was necessary. There the matter ended till recently. The people were representing however again and again. In Karkadakam 1097, Mr. P. V. Daniel, Member for Agastisvaram taluk, raised an interpellation pointing out the urgent need for an approach road from the Cape road to Karkad village.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : May I know what reply the Government gave to Mr. Daniel's question?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I think a reference will have to be made to the Council Proceedings.

A petition from the villagers was received by me on 19-1-1923 repeating the request for opening the new approach road from near Suchindram bridge and pointing out that the cart road *via* Kakamputur and Suchindram tank was of no use to them. It is the endorsement given by me on 6-6-1923 that was referred to by Mr. Sivatanu Pillai. The Government order of 1911 being in force, no other endorsement was possible.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : Does the Chief Engineer think that the endorsement could be justified ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): It was quite justified under the then existing Government order. I may point out that I did not commit myself to any opinion then.

"The Travancore Times" reiterated the need in its issue of the 24th April 1923 referring to Mr. P. V. Daniel's interpellation. Mr. P.V.Daniel again interpellated the Government in the Legislative Council session of January 1924. The necessity for the road will be evident from the above and the road is also urgent considering the very long standing grievances of the Sambavars of the village.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know the answer that was given to Mr. Daniel's interpellation?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I think some favourable answer was given.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): The answer was that Government had no information about this road.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : Probably there are two roads. There is some confusion in the matter.

The present Dewan, when he came to know of the hardships experienced by the Sambavars of Karkad quickly realised the situation and consulted me. I recommended the speedy construction of the road on the alignment suggested by me as Division Officer in 1909, and, as the matter is really urgent so far as the question of the mitigation of the

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[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar].

sufferings of a section of the subjects of the State is concerned, an estimate was got ready and submitted for sanction, recommending its execution this year. As soon as this decision came to be known, Mr. G. Devasahayam and others have represented in their petition dated 14-3-1926 pointing out that the proposed new cart road is absolutely essential but only suggested that the road might be deviated in one portion. But on this matter, the Executive Engineer and the Tahsildar have, after a joint inspection, settled the best practicable line which had no opposition whatever from the caste people living there and when the road is constructed all communities will have perfect freedom to use it. The road will serve as an important flood bank on the right side of the Pazhayar and its construction will avoid the closing up of a long breach about 300 or 400 ft. long which occurred in Tulam 1101. Thus it may also be said that the flood bank of the Pazhayar, essential to the interests of all agriculturists, is intended to be utilised for the approach road in question as, in any case, the flood bank which has breached has to be made up at once.

What we have to consider now is whether this road is useful or not and whether the recognised grievance in the matter of communication, especially in the case of the Sambavar community, should be allowed to stand over indefinitely without being remedied immediately when the Government have realised the necessity thereof. Several other approach roads to Sambavar villages are either under construction or under investigation and the construction of a road to Karkad is not less urgent than any other one of the kind.

I trust that the information above given will satisfy the Members who will, I am sure, vote the grant for the road in question which is really a long-felt and urgent need.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Is the Chief Engineer aware that during one of the sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly a list was prepared, at the instance of the Members, of the roads that had to be opened in South Travancore; and may I know whether this road was included in that list?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I do not now remember anything about that list.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether there was any urgency in the matter of the opening of this road?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): This has been delayed for a very long time and the Government thought that the sooner it is remedied the better.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Is there any harm in its being postponed till the Budget Session?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): There will be no harm even if it is postponed for a hundred years; only the people will have to suffer.

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MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : ഇതുപോലെ പഴക്കം ചെന്നിട്ടുള്ള അപേക്ഷകൾ വേറെയും ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : All applications are being attended to according to their importance.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ അപേക്ഷകളുടെ നമ്പർ അനുസരിച്ചു ചെയ്യുന്നോ, അതോ, അത്യാവശ്യം അനുസരിച്ചു ചെയ്യുന്നോ ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : As far as I know there is no recorded list of applications.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*) : May I know on what particular grounds the Chief Engineer thinks that this road is very urgently needed ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have explained myself to the fullest possible extent in my speeches.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jenmies*) : പുതുതായി ടെട്ടാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന റോഡിന് എത്രമൈൽ നീളം വരും ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : 1,600 feet.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIR (*Jenmies*): മനസ്സിലായില്ല.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : അരമൈലിൽ കൂടുതൽ കാൽമയിലിൽ കുട്ടതലുമാണ്.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know if the distance of the existing road to Karkad is greater or less than the proposed road ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : Up to the school junction, both roads will be equal, and up to the bridge the proposed road will be shorter. From the village up to the school junction it will be more than half a mile.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether, at least to-day, the Chief Engineer is in a position to say that the road is maintained by the P. W. D. ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*) : That question is immaterial for our present purpose.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : I want a ruling from the Chair, Sir, as to whether it is open to a Member from the Treasury Bench to say that a question does not arise, and whether it is not the Chair that should rule that a question does not arise.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Natesa Aiyar is at liberty to answer your question or not, but it is for the Chair to rule that a question does not arise.

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MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether this road is maintained by the Public Works Department ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I am not in a position to answer the question unless I refer to the list in my office.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*) : പുതിയറോഡിൽ പഴയ റോഡിനെക്കാൾ എത്ര അടിയുടെ ലാഭമുണ്ട്?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The proposed road is shorter by about two furlongs.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether it did not strike Mr. Natesa Aiyar that this question would naturally be raised today ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I had to study the whole question and I had to write out the speech. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. J. JOHN (*Vaikam*): May I know from the Chief Engineer whether he has made a study of the comparative urgency of the several new roads that have to be opened in the State ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not know whether that question arises. Government consider that this road is urgently needed.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jenmies*): ഈ നാലോ അഞ്ചോഫർലാംഗ് റോഡ് വെട്ടുന്നതിന് ഇപ്പോൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യമുഴുവനും ചിലവിടേണ്ടിവരുമൊ ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): അതുയും വേണ്ടിവരും.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jenmies*): കയറ്റമൊ, ഇറക്കമൊ, മലയൊ ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടൊ ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): ഇല്ല.

MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMBUTIRI (*Jenmies*): ഈ റോഡിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നുംഅവണ്ണർ സവണ്ണർ എന്ന വേർതിരിച്ച വല്ലതും ചെയ്യാൻ ആലോചിക്കുന്നുണ്ടൊ?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): എനിക്കതിനെ പറ്റി അറിവില്ല.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will now put the several items of the demand, one after another, to the vote of the House.

Items (*a*) and (*b*) were put and carried. The grants were made.

Item (*c*) was put and lost.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): I demand a poll.

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A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :

AYES—18.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. ,, Paul Daniel.
3. ,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
4. ,, K. George.
5. ,, C. Kerala Varma Koil Tampuran.
6. ,, R. Krishnaswami Aiyar.
7. ,, P. N. Krishna Pillai.
8. Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai
9. Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai.
10. ,, K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
11. Mr. Kayyalam Paramesvaran Pillai.
12. ,, W. H. Pitt.
13. Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose.
14. Mr. T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar.
15. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
16. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
17. ,, V. S. Subrahmanya Aiyar.
18. ,, C. N. Tuppan Nambutiri.

NOES—29.

1. Mr. P. Habeeb Mahomed.
2. ,, A. J. John.
3. ,, K. I. Joseph.
4. ,, N. V. Joseph.
5. ,, C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.
6. ,, N. Kumaran.
7. ,, T. Kumara Pillai.
8. ,, X. G. Lopez.
9. ,, K. Madhavan Pillai.
10. ,, K. C. Mammen Mappillai.
11. ,, T. J. Matthew.
12. ,, G. Narayana Pillai.
13. ,, Kallur Narayana Pillai.
14. ,, P. K. Narayana Pillai.
15. ,, K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.
16. ,, A. K. Pillai.
17. Mr. M. N. Pillai.
18. ,, R. Padmanabhan.
19. ,, G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
20. ,, Changanachery K. Paramesvaran Pillai.
21. ,, S. Piraviperumal Pillai.
22. ,, G. Raman Menon.
23. ,, K. Sivarama Panikkar.
24. ,, M. Sivatanu Pillai.
25. ,, S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.
26. ,, M. Subrahmanya Pillai.
27. ,, C. P. Tarakan.
28. ,, C. P. Thomas
29. ,, K. K. Thomas.

The motion was declared lost.

Item (*d*) of the demand was then put and carried. The grant was made.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1·55 P. M. and met again at 2·57 P. M.

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